

Minutes
Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee Meeting
16 Nov 2010

Attendance: John Bamberger, Lynn Grabowski, Karen Kowles (chair), Peter Lillya, Fran VanTreese, Eve Vogel, Glenn Barrington (UMass Transit), David Elvin (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission working with PVTa), Guilford Mooring (Superintendent of Public Works), Richard Roznoy (Planning Board), Rob Crowner (guest), Kevin Eddings (guest), Walter Wolnik (guest).

Glenn Barrington reported that Oct. 2010 ridership was down 2.7% compared to Oct. 2009. The likely cause is one fewer full-service weekday in Oct. 2010. Cumulative FY 2011 ridership through Oct. is up 2.5% compared to FY2010. A bench at the Amherst Post Office on N. Pleasant has been installed. A bench will be installed at Amherst Crossing later. Additions to the bus fleet were discussed.

Fran reported on contacts with Neils LaCour, UMass Facilities Planning concerning the **North Amherst Bike Path**. The new campus-planning director is supportive of the path. Fran, Eve & Lynn agreed to meet with Neils to develop and submit a proposal to the Community Preservation Act Council, deadline 10 Dec.

Kevin Eddings and Rob Crowner presented **a proposal to build bike lanes, sidewalks, & bus pull-offs** at the same time that street repairs authorized by Town meeting this fall in a bond authorization vote are made. With the exception of Main and Meadow Sts., sidewalks and bike lanes were not included in the warrant article. The Committee agreed that simultaneous construction would be advantageous.

It was moved: The Public Transportation and bicycle Committee supports the effort to find funds to construct bike lanes, sidewalks, and bus pull-offs as part of the street repairs authorized by Town Meeting in Nov 2010. The motion was seconded and voted: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

The Committee agreed to form a subcommittee to work with Kevin, Rob and Rob Kusner, and representatives from the Public Works and Shade Tree Commission.

Guilford Mooring reported that white lines in the Town center cannot be repainted until spring since painting cannot be done in cold weather. Guilford reported that The Wildwood safe-routes-to-school project is moving toward bidding beginning before Oct 2011. Many of our suggestions were adopted, and PTBC will see a revised plans in a month or two.

It was moved that the PTBC recommend that DPW include a line-painting machine as part of its next capital request to the Joint Capital Planning Committee. The motion was seconded and voted: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Minutes of 10/21/2010 were amended to include a response by Glenn Barrington regarding training of bus drivers and then were approved: 5 yes. 0 no, 0 abstain.

A discussion of the how to turn the transportation section of the Town master plan into a specific working plan led to consideration of hiring a consultant to undertake this. It also elicited a suggestion by Fran vanTreese that the cost of a consultant might be better spent funding a position of bicycle advocate for the Town.

Next meeting Tue 21 Dec. at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Lillya, Secretary